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[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE “WESTERN SENTINEL.”]

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Feb. 8th, 1861.

EDITORS OF THE SENTINEL: Gentlemen, will you do me the kindness to insert this communication in the columns of your paper. I ask this as a political aspirant, but in order that I may explain my position to my old friends and former political associates in the county of Forsyth, in regard to the seceding movement of the cotton, slaveholding, and border States. I do this inasmuch as I have received several letters recently from various old political friends rather censuring, or at least expressing surprise that I should take the position in I have in the seceding movement, which are agitating the minds of the people South. I intend to vindicate my position in this article, and give my reasons for the same in a plain and simple manner, disclaiming any intention of giving the least offence, or disrespecting the opinions of any one who may see proper to differ with me upon the subject of secession. I am proud that I was born in the South, and reared upon Southern soil, for which I claim that there is no man, who occupies as humble a position as I do, in the walks of life, whose feelings are entwined closer around our land and sunny South, and who is more willing to make personal sacrifice, and, if necessary, to fight and die for her, than myself. We have approached a fearful crisis; yes, the time has come, when it becomes as true as the sun, that we are to guard our homes, and to look well, and with steady eye, to our rights and liberties. We have, in my humble opinion, arrived at the point in our country's history on which the clear and far seeing eye of the good and wise sage of Mt. Vernon was fixed, when with a throbbing heart, he penned his farewell address, warning his countrymen against geographical paroxysms, and in which he said: “The name of America, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. And now pray tell me, after the lapse of eighty odd years, what section or people of the confederacy have adhered to the advice of the Father of his country with more faithfulness and patriotism than the South?” What people have done more, and endured more, to maintain the Federal Union, so dear to the heart of Washington, than the good people of the South. They have always endeavored to do away with sectional feelings, upon local subjects either religious or political. If any one denies this, I have only to refer him to the proceedings of the different public bodies where these sectional issues have been discussed. The South has submitted quietly to high tariffs for protective purposes, and thus freely contributed to the earnings to feed and clothe the pauper thousands of the North, and thus enrich those who have proven to be our worst enemies, and despite constant insults and abuse, our people have watered the Union with their blood and treasure. For the sake of the Union, and common good of our country, we have made compromise after compromise, yielding here a little and there a little for the last forty years. We have submitted to insult after insult with Christian forbearance, until, forbearance has ceased to be a virtue; honor, manhood, religion and patriotism all with one concordant voice, say resists, submit no longer to such outrages. And now, please tell me who have drawn geographical lines, and disregarded the advice of Washington, in this farewell address? Was it not those same Northern fanatics, who have long since, in direct violation of the Federal compact, drawn geographical lines of sectionalism

for the avowed purpose of interfering with and impeding the progress of the domestic institutions of the South. And at last the abolitionists of the North, with the stealthy steps of the vicious and blood-thirsty panther, have crept along from year to year, on the rights of the South, until they have approached near enough to make a leap, and with their greedy fangs fasten on our rights and property; they boldly declare, that they will tear them from us whether or not, and abolish slavery at all hazards throughout the length and breadth of the land a land that was bought by the common treasure of our ancestors. Is it right? must we submit longer? no! Can any southerner under these circumstances crave to remain united with a people, who cherish such hostile feelings towards us, and who for no other purpose than to gratify a mean and unholily desire would destroy everything that is sacred to the people South. I imagine, if the great Washington could rise from his quiet tomb at Mt. Vernon, and revisit the scenes of his revolutionary struggles, stand on Mason's and Dixon's line, look over the Union for which he agonized, prayed and fought, and review the political movements of our Northern brethren, for the last thirty years, methinks a frown would come over his manly brow as he would turn his eyes Northward, and his clarion voice would be heard ringing throughout the South, “enough, enough my countrymen! whilst his great heart would swell with the same indignant feelings with which he opposed the tyranny and oppression of British power “in the days that tried men's souls.” It is not only argued, but it also become fashionable recently, in some places, to brand the advocates of State rights and State sovereignty as disunionists and traitors to their country, but we not only deny that, but we go further, we claim to be the best friends the Union ever had, I mean, of our own Union formed by the patriots of the revolution. That was a Union of freedom, for mutual protection in all of the pursuits of life, liberty, and happiness. It was not a Union for the North to oppress the South, or the South to interfere with the North in her domestic relations. But it was a Union of equals, in a federal compact, granting to all the States the exercise of certain rights, necessary to united action, and reserving to themselves all rights not thus voluntarily ceded.

But I propose to look into this matter a little further. The first article of that compact, after the style of the Confederacy declares emphatically, that each State retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and this is the Union that true Southern men love, it is the Union by which they are willing to stand, and which they will defend with their strong arms, until every star that blazes on its banner, shall be blotted out with blood. But Northern cupidity and fanaticism have tarred the life out of this beautiful creature of our fathers. Its spirit has departed, and nothing is left but a breathless caricature of its former self.

We are told by the friends of the coming administration, in the free States, and what is still more strange, it is admitted by a great many of our Southern leaders, that these States are not sovereign, free and independent, as declared in the Federal compact. But that the general government is the sovereign power, and each individual State must and shall yield implicit obedience to the will of its Federal head. What does this argue? why, it only goes to show, that numbers give power, and that the majorities must rule, and that eighteen millions of Black Republicans may violate the Federal compact, trample the Constitution on which it stands into the dust, invade our reserved rights, and take away our property. And still we hear the cry coming up from every nook and corner in the border slaveholding States, we must stand by the Union, though it annihilate all of our institutions and makes us and our posterity beggars, in order to build up Northern institutions, and support those who have never contributed one cent to establish our government.

Have not the Black Republicans of the North, from time to time waged war upon our institutions of slavery in the South? notwithstanding that institution came into the Union under the Federal compact, and is guarded by the constitution as one of our reserved rights. Have not the Northern fanatics from time immemorial violated the compact, despite of all the entreaties of our people? Have they not violated and trampled under feet the Constitution by passing “Personal Liberty Bills” in the face of the emphatic law of Congress? Have they not been engaged for years past in sending emissaries into our border slaveholding States, to steal and run off our negroes? Have they not committed a still greater crime than this? by sending their miserable cut-throats to our more Southern States, inciting servile insurrection, pillaging and burning our property, and poisoning and cutting the throats of our citizens. And still we hear the cry coming up in our midst, we must stand by the Union, though it costs our lives, and the relinquishment of our property, and he who has moral courage enough to take a position in the defence of Southern Rights, must be branded traitor

and rebels to his country. The very actions of our people in the border States are strengthening the Black Republicans in the North.

But we must purpose to look into this matter still further; have not the abolitionists of the North avowed, time and again that they would not give up our fugitive slaves, nor punish the men who steal them? Do they not teach their children in their day, and Sabbath schools and from the pulpit, that it would be doing God service to conceal or otherwise contrive to get a slave out of the reach of his masters? Have they not declared virtuously, and in many cases openly that slavery must be abolished in the South? Has not this policy been signed and sealed by the election of a Black Republican Lincoln for the Presidency? And still we hear the cry coming up from all quarters in the border States, wait! it is treason for the South to act. Wait, may I ask for what? I suppose until Old Abe is inaugurated President, with W. H. Seward at his right hand, the arch fiend of mischief and the father of Black Republicanism have gotten into their possession all the power of the army and navy, and the entire mass of Federal patronage, so capable of being wielded for our destruction, is this what our friends of the South are waiting for? if so, God deliver me from prostration. Now in the face of these facts, let me ask, in the name of common sense, does the Union, does patriotism, does all that is sacred to a Southern citizen, require us to wait longer. But we still hear the cry of the conservatives in our midst, who profess to be mourning over the bleeding and lamentable condition of our country, let us wait for an overt act from the new administration. It is an old time adage that “prostration is the thief of time,” and it is clear to my mind, if we wait for an official development of Mr. Lincoln's policy, if he should prove true to the party that has elevated him to the high position which he is soon to occupy, the time will have passed for us to have secured our just rights. But what have we to expect from the North? Did we not meet with our Northern brethren in convention, previous to the last Presidential election, and in due time, present to the people North and South, Union candidates for the offices of President and Vice President, and who were our standard bearers, the Honorable John Bell of the South, a man of no ordinary reputation for President, and the Honorable Edward Everett, a great and accomplished orator and Statesman of the North, and so far from carrying a non slaveholding State they did not in some of them even have a ticket. And yet we hear the cry from our friends in the South, let us wait, perhaps our Northern brethren will at their earliest convenience adopt the Crittenden resolution with some modification in their favor. But now, to speak seriously and suppose we do wait and lay our demands before the North, as our friends of the South desire, and suppose the Black Republicans, as a party, in view of their interests, or through Yankee trickery, should give them to us, what guarantee shall we have of their ability to fulfil their agreement, or that the negro working fanatic, led on by Fred Douglas, the Sumners, the Phillipses, the Greeleys and Beechers, shall not be the dominant party in the four years to come, and then be able to perpetrate more heinous crimes upon us and our institution than ever has been in the past. Now, in the name of common sense is there any reason for waiting longer? no! I believe in my very soul, that now is the time for us to strike, and the sooner the better, for the Southern States to declare their independence, and dissolve a Union that exists only in name, peaceably, if we can, forcibly if must, and form a confederacy among ourselves, a Union which will be like in feelings and like in interests. Such are my feelings and such are my views; and I am perfectly willing that all the world may know them, whether they should be able to carry any influence or not.

J. W. ATWOOD.

Are Young Men Safe Counsellors?

Just preceding the Revolutionary War, Virginia led the way in opposing the Stamp Act. On the 30th of May, 1765, near the close of the session, Patrick Henry offered the series of resolutions against British aggressions, which rendered his name immortal.

We extract from Campbell's invaluable “History of Virginia” the following for the purpose of illustrating a truth to which we desire to call the attention of our readers:

“Mr. Henry was young, being about twenty eight years of age and a new member, but finding the men of weight in the house averse to the position, and the stamp act about to take effect, and no person likely to step forth, alone, unaided and unassisted, he wrote these resolutions on a blank leaf of an old law book, ‘Coke upon Littleton.’

“The last of the five resolutions was carried by a majority of only one vote, being only twenty to nineteen, and the debate upon it, in the language of Mr. Jefferson, was ‘most bloody.’

“Speaker Robinson, Peyton Randolph, Attorney General Richard Bland, Ed-

mund Pendleton, George Wythe, and all the old leaders of house, and proprietors of large estates, made strenuous resistance.

“In the course of this stormy debate, many threats were uttered by the party for submission, but he carried the young members with him.”

Such is the language of the faithful historian. Our purpose in calling attention to it is, to show that at that stormy period there was, as there is now, a disposition to injure the cause of resistance to Northern aggression, by representing it as chiefly advocated by young men, who are not safe counsellors in the present crisis. We could easily show that the statement is incorrect, so far as young men being its only supporters is concerned, but this is foreign to our purpose. A search into the history of the world will show that in every department of life, the greatest success has been achieved by young men. There is not a scene of creation, not a work of art, that does not furnish proofs of this. Let us examine English and American annals: The elder Pitt, while shaking by his efforts the foundations of the platform of the party opposed to what he believed the best interests of England, was reproached by Horace Walpole. ‘Twas then he made the famous reply, commencing with ‘atrocious crime of being a young man.’ The younger Pitt, at the age of twenty three, bore upon his shoulders the weight of empire. Wolfe was not, though a young man, thought by the great Chatham incompetent to lead the army which triumphed at Quebec, and rescued Canada from French dominion. It time allowed, we could give numerous instances of the rod of empire held, and glory reflected on their country, by young men who lived during England's age of Parliamentary greatness. The complaint, at a later period, of the people of England, that her army suffered before Sebastopol, because young men were regarded as unsafe leaders of her army, is not forgotten, and it was only when the older soldiers retired from command that she was triumphant.

The history of our own land furnishes instances, without number, of young men who were deemed men of wisdom and prudence sufficient to make them safe counsellors. Jefferson was called into the public service at 25, and continued in the most trustworthy positions until, at the age of 88, he introduced himself and his country to immortality, by writing the Declaration of Independence. Richard Henry Lee, who offered the resolution in Congress in favor of an immediate and total separation of the Colonies from Great Britain, was forced by his countrymen into the House of Burgesses of Virginia, in his twenty-fifth year. “Light Horse Harry Lee,” (as he was called,) at twenty, was, on the nomination of Patrick Henry, appointed a captain in Col. Bland's regiment of cavalry. “In September of the ensuing year, the regiment joined the main army, where Lee by his discipline, vigilance and effluence, soon won the confidence of Washington, who selected him and his company for a body guard at the battle of Germantown.” Almost every battle-field of the Revolution in the South, and many in the North, bear testimony to his tact, prudence, and ability to meet the most trying responsibility.

Lafayette, when under legal age, disregarding the advice and commands of older heads, left his native land to fight the battles of America. He was at once recommended by Washington, and elected a Major General; and so faithfully and successfully did he perform his duty, that he earned Cornwallis at Yorktown, who had boasted a short time before, “the boy cannot escape me.”

Washington was not afraid to associate with him in the tented field, and subsequently in the Cabinet, the young man Alexander Hamilton.

Madison displayed not more wisdom, certainly not more energy in the convention of 1830 as in that of 1787.

Nor did Marshall grapple with the knotty points of a case, and unravel its intricacies with more acuteness in 1835 than in Richmond, when he sat upon the case of Burr.

John C. Calhoun gave as great evidence of executive talent while Mr. Monroe's Secretary of War as at any later period of his life; and Mr. Clay's voice, like the rich rejoicing trumpet, was as effective in rousing his countrymen during the war of 1812 as he was in the evening of life; and lastly, Gen. Winfield Scott displayed as much courage and bravery, and was regarded as safe and reliable a commander in that same war as in the Mexican; and just as much so as in that unnatural war he proposes to wage against his own once loved South, his own native home.

Lynchburg Republican.

THE EIGHT MILLION LOAN.—The sum of \$4,519,000 of the eight million Federal loan will be aarded to the following parties at \$90.15: Messrs. Ketchum, Son & Co., \$2,814,000; Satterlee & Co., \$135,000; Trevis & Ogilvie, \$125,000; Read, Drexler & Co., \$1,345,000. Messrs. Sweeney, Rittenhouse, Faint & Co., \$100,000 at \$90.15. The remainder of the loan will be awarded at rates ranging from \$90.25 to \$96. No bid below \$90.15 will be accepted. There was \$18,355,000 bid for.

From the Democratic Standard, Printed at Concord, New Hampshire.

Massachusetts—Its Loyalty.

It is really marvellous to see how devoted Massachusetts now is to the Constitution and the Union. The loyalty of that selfrighteous, egotistic, yankee-puritan State, is just now very remarkable. It is the burden of all her complaisant abolition republican press. But let us see how her record stands.

1 She attempted to prevent the establishment of a democratic republican government, after the Revolution. She wanted a government substantially like that of Great Britain.

2 Her leading citizens, from 1805 to 1809, entered into a treasonable correspondence with John Henry the British spy, with the view to the separation of the New England States from the Union.

3 In the late war with England she sympathized with and aided the public enemy, and did all she could to cripple and embarrass the government of the Union.

4 In 1814, she again plotted a dismemberment of the Union, joining the treasonable convocation known as the Hartford Convention; which body sent Commissioners to Washington to treat with President Madison for the separation of the New England States from the Union.

5 In all the Indian wars she has taken sides with the barbarians against the Government of the Union.

6 In the late war with Mexico, she gave her sympathies to the enemy, and denounced and opposed the government of her own country.

7 She has done, and is now doing, all she can to destroy the domestic institutions of the South, and thus to revolutionize the society and civilization of the South. And because the South will not submit to this process of political assassination, Massachusetts is loudmouthed for coercion and bloodshed.

Yes, Massachusetts is loyal. To the public enemy of the country, she holds out encouragement. Against our own States and people, she is for war, blood, and carnage.—It would be better for this Union if Massachusetts could be floated off into the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, and there sunk to the bottom.

Personnel of Vice-President Stephens.

Imagine the re-animated form of remarkable, eccentric John Randolph, habited in a swallow-tail coat of black, badly cut pants, black vest, flowing neckerchief of the sombre hue, flashy pendant watch chain, heavy seals, golden rimmed eyeglasses, and a beaver cocked on the side of the head, and you have a faint idea of Stephens, of Georgia. Until you look at the face a long time, however you have no conception of the man. To picture the countenance with pen and ink is difficult. In its ordinary aspect of repose it is very common, yet even in its commonness it is unusual. At a first glance the impression it makes is but of pity for the “sufferer” to whom it belongs. The occasion when it was my first chance to see this remarkable man, I would have declared he was a Floridian.—Mosquitoes gnaw and fever swamp and marvelous exhalations of the low lands of the South recurred to me instantaneously.

“What in the name of wonder do they send such a man here for?” “Where did he come from?” and “Who is he pray?” were questions that I promptly asked. “That's STEPHENS, of Georgia,” was the answer that astonished me. I need not say that my curiosity was fully aroused, and that I examined the face fully. Minutely, then I say excessively pale and almost corpse-like. The lips are thin, determined, of nearly an ashy hue. Heavy lines indent every part of it. Around the eyes the wrinkles run with the same regularity that spokes branch out from the hub of a wheel. The forehead is high, wide and full, yet the larger part of it is hidden by harsh, grayish hair, allowed to struggle about loosely.

The whole countenance is small and emphatically effeminate. In youth it might have been prepossessing, though decidedly never good looking. Now it might readily be taken for an old lady's wrinkled face. The eye is the only redeeming feature; even in repose it sparkles, fascinates, and commands, in excitement it flashes. When conversing in an ordinary manner the voice too, is boyish—womanish—but is nevertheless melodious and well modulated. As conversation merges into debate, and debate grows into an effort at oratory, excitement seems to change the entire man. His gestures become graceful, and the voice gains strength but not harshness. It has the clear ring of silver, and is so distinct that it can be heard by every man in the largest assembly.

Hon. Taz. W. Newman, President of the Tennessee Senate, who voted with the unionists during the recent session of the Legislature, of that State, has announced himself in favor of disunion, in an address to the people of his Senatorial district.

KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE—HOW THEY ORIGINATED, ETC.—The Cincinnati Gazette furnishes a paragraph concerning an order which has recently occupied much of public attention.

A gentleman of this city, and one of the founders of the Order of the Golden Circle, gives us the following accounts of its origin and purposes: About two years ago some five or six young men, including Dr. George W. L. Bickley, then a lecturer in one of the medical colleges here, met in a room in the fifth story of Castle's building, southwest of Fourth and Walnut, and organized themselves into an order which they denominated the American Legion, or the Knights of the Golden Circle. The object was to seize upon Mexico, and the glittering prize held out, of course soon drew within its ranks a large number of adventurers and filibustering spirits. No act of treason towards the American Government was contemplated, though it may since have been perverted to that end. The number of members initiated in this city was 750. The headquarters were subsequently established in Baltimore. Gen. Bickley, the commandant, (but since kicked out, we believe) was regarded by those who knew his private character as a dissolute and unprincipled scamp, and we are informed, enticed a very respectable young lady away from here with him when he left.

AN ELOPEMENT.—A novel elopement took place in this city a short time ago. We have heard of men running off with girls, but we seldom hear, as in this case, of women running off with boys. The names of the parties in this affair, we shall omit, but is nevertheless true for a that. A lady becoming tired of the blessings of single life, having reached the mature and discretionary age of 45, as we are informed, concluded to take herself a husband, with whom to pass her remaining days in the toils and perplexities, interspersed with a slight sprinkling of bliss and plenty of moonshine, of a married life. Casting about for a proper object upon whom to bestow the favor of her hand and heart, she finally pounced upon a verdant though confiding youth of 19 summers as the choice of her affection. Preliminaries being arranged, an elopement became necessary to accomplish the desire of her heart, and with wings of steam velocity she conveyed the idol of her love to the city of Washington, where for aught we know to the contrary, the honeymoon is still in the progress of consummation. *Madison (Va.) Eagle.*

A FEMALE SLAVE'S IDEA OF THE ELECTION OF LINCOLN.—A Mississippi correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat relates the following anecdote: “A negro man from the neighboring plantation has been courting our cook for a long time the came in the other evening, and sitting down beside her began: ‘Well, Lincoln is ‘lected and now you'll see, you'll see.’ ‘Well, what ‘ll I see?’ said she ‘Never mind, you'll see.’ ‘Well, what ‘ll I see?’ ‘You'll see, you'll see.’ ‘Yes,’ said the cook, exasperated beyond all patience, ‘I'll see more niggers licked than ever, that's what I'll see.’”

FORTS SUMTER AND PICKENS.—A despatch was received by President Buchanan on Saturday, announcing the arrival of President Jefferson Davis at Charleston. This considerably startled the President, who immediately started a messenger to ex-President Tyler's rooms to enquire what this movement meant. Mr. Tyler was happily able to assure the President that his mission was one of peace and not of war. That his presence at Charleston was to prevent the possibility of an attack on Fort Sumter—that if the tone of Mr. Lincoln's inaugural was pacific the forts would not be attacked, and if otherwise, the attack would be immediately made.

RUNNING OFF WITH ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE.—John Mundorf, a resident of Westmoreland county, Pa., a man of about fifty years of age, and father of six or seven children, eloped a few days since with a Mrs. Daniel Steppay, a lady of some forty years, and mother of five children. The parties were arrested on Friday at Rockville, and after a desperate resistance, during which a revolver and bowie knife were exhibited, they were safely lodged in jail at Harrisburg to await the requisition of the authorities of Westmoreland county.

MOST FOUL MURDER.—A gentleman writing to us from White Creek, Bladen county, on the 25th inst., says that a child was murdered at Bladen Springs in that county on Sunday last 24th inst. The child was the daughter of Mr. A. Colum, aged about 9 years. The deed was committed about 200 yards from its father's house. The murderer is believed to be a negro girl, or at least there is strong suspicion against her. We forbear saying more at present. *State Journal.*